

# ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

Layers of Language:  
Anglo-Saxon Morpheme Patterns

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## ~ Module 13, Session 6 ~ Handout 2 – Common Anglo-Saxon Prefixes

***in*** (in or not)

infield inflate inlay inset  
insane infirm

***un*** (not or opposite of)

unfit unable unclean unjust  
unfair unlike unhappy unwise

***un*** (undo or reverse)

unarm unbind unchain uncoil  
unhand unglue unfold unwrap

***a*** (on or in, to)

abound around ahead alight  
away alive alike apart

***mis*** (bad, badly; wrong, wrongly)

miscall miscast misfire misname  
misplace misspell mistake misuse

***non*** (not, negative prefix)

nonstop nonreader nonhero  
onperson nonskid nonstick

***mid*** (middle)

midline midterm midwinter  
midstream midnight midweek

***re*** (back, again)

recount repay reprint retrace  
rejoin remark retell redo

***pre*** (before)

preview predate presell premix  
preplan prepay preheat presold

***de*** (down or away from)

debug decamp decode defile  
deplane defog delight declaim

***be*** (completely, thoroughly)

became becloud bedeck belay  
befoul beloved begrudge befriend

***dis*** (not, absence of, or apart)

dislike disable disarm disclose  
disgrace distrust displace dislodge

***fore*** (before)

forearm forehead forewarn forecourt  
foreleg foresail foresight foreman

## Common Anglo-Saxon Suffixes

- able* (adj. – *able, can do*) buyable, fixable, drinkable, eatable, reasonable, payable
- dom* (noun – *quality, office*) boredom, chiefdom, earldom, freedom, kingdom, stardom
- ed* (past tense verb) skated, fretted, jumped, crushed, opened, dreamed  
[NOTE: -ed is pronounced as a syllable after a base element ending in d or t, /t/ after a base element ending in an unvoiced consonant, and /d/ after a base element ending in a voiced consonant.]
- en* (verb) blacken, darken, harden, ripen soften, thicken, tighten  
(adj.) barren, broken, frozen, olden, golden, silken, woolen
- er* (noun) baker, skater, swimmer, runner, spoiler, crawler, banker  
(adj. - comparative degree) older, milder, browner, greener, shorter, taller, happier
- ess* (feminine noun) actress, authoress, lioness, countess, princess, hostess, tigress
- est* (adj – superlative degree) oldest, coldest, greenest, fattest, thinnest
- fold* (noun) fiftyfold, manifold, tenfold, twofold
- ful* (adj. - *full of, full*) hopeful, armful, doubtful, careful, joyful, shameful, wishful
- hood* (noun – *condition, state*) girlhood, boyhood, livelihood, childhood, manhood
- ing* (noun as action, process or art) dancing, drawing, swimming, gathering  
(adj; present participle of verb) believing, seeing, thinking, drinking
- ish* (adj. – *origin, nature*) babyish, biggish, clownish, girlish, sheepish, stylish
- less* (adj. - *without*) ageless, careless, endless, cheerless, cloudless, pointless
- ling* (noun – *very small*) duckling, cageling, foundling, seedling, yearling
- ly* (adverb - *like*) clearly, broadly, foolishly, friendly, hoarsely, roundly
- ment* (noun – *act of, state of*) agreement, amazement, basement, enjoyment, movement
- ness* (noun - *state of*) fitness, gladness, loudness, greatness, madness, shortness
- ship* (noun - *office, state, skill*) authorship, courtship, kinship, lordship, membership
- y* (adj. – *inclined to*) brainy, bushy, cloudy, fishy, flashy, healthy, sleepy, tricky